



Contact: Nancy Benecki, Public Information Assistant
(201) 460-4662 nancy.benecki@njmeadowlands.gov

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Ridgefield Is Latest Meadowlands Town to Go Online With the NJMC's Geographic Information System

LYNDHURST, N.J. – The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission has expanded access to its powerful Geographic Information System (GIS) by adding the Borough of Ridgefield to the towns that can now instantly go online for digital maps and geographic information.

“It is exciting that Ridgefield can now tap into our high-speed mapping database and use this information for planning, safety and other important municipal issues,” said New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Acting Commissioner and NJMC Chair Susan Bass Levin. “Eventually, all 14 towns in the Meadowlands District will have access to this information, and we bring it to each town at no cost to the taxpayers.”

A presentation was held Monday night in Ridgefield Borough Hall. Presenting the equipment from the Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute (MERI), the scientific arm of the NJMC, were MERI Director Dr. Francisco Artigas, GIS Manager Dom Elefante and other members of the MERI staff. The Ridgefield Borough Council and Borough Administrator John Perkins were on hand for the presentation and to receive the GIS workstation. A tablet PC laptop computer with access to GIS information, which emergency officials can use from patrol cars, soon will be provided to the borough as well.

The GIS program is run by the Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute, the scientific arm of the NJMC. The system creates maps, databases and other information useful to municipal workers. Information for GIS has been compiled from original paper maps, satellite images and other geographical documents available at the local, state and county level such as Census data.

“This is an example of our new dedication to supporting our municipalities in their effort to protect and serve their residents,” said NJMC Executive Director Robert Ceberio. “The Meadowlands is fast becoming a model of efficient local governmental networks and regional cooperation.”

The NJMC also allocated about \$25,000 for each community to receive the necessary hardware and training to come online with GIS. Another \$25,000 was allocated from the NJMC's Municipal Assistance Program to purchase a tablet PC for each municipality. Secaucus, Teterboro, Moonachie and Carlstadt are already equipped with this GIS technology. East Rutherford will receive a full demonstration of the technology on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at East Rutherford Borough Hall.

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